

# Expanding Economic & Career Success in the Greater Washington Region

Education Strategy Group (ESG), with generous support from JPMorgan Chase & Co., is partnering with K-12 districts and postsecondary institutions in the nation's capital to expand access to economic opportunity for thousands of young people and help meet the growing demand for skilled workers in the Greater Washington Region.

## Building a Regional Partnership

The Greater Washington Region Pathways Initiative will bring together K-12 and higher education leaders from five communities: **Baltimore City MD, Fairfax County VA, Montgomery County MD, Prince George's County MD, and Washington, DC.** Schools, colleges, and employers will partner to design pathways that connect postsecondary degrees, certifications, and real-world work experiences to high-demand technology careers. The Greater Washington Partnership, a regional employer collaborative, will convene businesses across the region and design an employer signaling system to provide clearer information to school systems on hiring needs.

As the initiative coordinator, ESG will work with education leaders and employers within and across the five communities to scale high-quality educational pathways and more clearly align them to the regional labor market. ESG will establish a regional collaboration network to enable initiative partners to collaborate with employers on cross-cutting regional strategies to expand and align pathways.

"We have a responsibility to build a better future for the region's young people. This investment is a good example of how **the public and private sectors can work together to create opportunity for more people and grow the local economy so that everyone benefits.**"

*Jamie Dimon, Chairman and CEO, JPMorgan Chase & Co.*

## Why a Regional Approach Works

The Greater Washington Region is comprised of multiple counties across multiple states. Each jurisdiction has its own policies and approaches to educational pathways, despite belonging to a regional economy that grows and shrinks regardless of geographic borders.

This new initiative is premised on the idea that **belonging to a regional economy is an asset to be leveraged** and that cross-jurisdictional collaboration can help meet the needs of both students and employers.

## Goals of the Initiative

The regional partnerships developed in this initiative will connect more young people—particularly those from underrepresented populations—to economic success, provide employers with the talent they need to thrive, and strengthen the broader regional economy. More specifically, this investment will:

- Increase the number of students in **demand-driven IT pathways that begin in high school & continue through postsecondary**
- Grow the number of **regional employers** hiring youth with credentials from educational institutions in the Greater Washington, DC Region
- Develop an **employer signaling system**, allowing education leaders to use regional labor market data to inform the design & scale of career pathways that begin in K-12 & continue through postsecondary
- Enhance **intermediary capacity** within the region to support industry-aligned work-based learning experiences for students
- Establish a **regional collaboration network** enabling K-12 districts, postsecondary institutions, & intermediaries to build stronger partnerships & design solutions to common challenges